

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 36

By Hawk

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the management and employees of *The Erwin Record* upon being named best weekly newspaper in the state by the Tennessee Press Association.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly have the distinct honor of recognizing those representatives of the print media who have achieved an unparalleled level of excellence in compiling and reporting the news and eloquently expressing their community's voices, and whose efforts have gained recognition far and wide; and

WHEREAS, *The Erwin Record*, a weekly newspaper serving the citizens in and around Unicoi County, is one such representative of the media, whose staff recently received 15 statewide awards from the Tennessee Press Association (TPA); and

WHEREAS, in addition to providing the residents of Unicoi County with the very best coverage of all newsworthy events, the staff members of *The Erwin Record* have performed at a level of journalistic excellence that has gained the recognition of this esteemed statewide press association; and

WHEREAS, *The Erwin Record* was recognized by the TPA as the best weekly newspaper in the state in its division and was thus honored with the "General Excellence Award"; and

WHEREAS, Staff Member Brenda Sparks and former Staff Member Rebekah Harris won a first-place award for "Best Single Feature" for a story titled, *Oh, Baby!* and, in the same category, Ms. Sparks and Staff Writer Lesley Hughes grabbed second-place honors for *A Love that Lasts*; and

WHEREAS, *The Record's* excellent journalists brought home other second-place awards for "Best Sports Photograph," "Best Personal Humor Column," "Community Lifestyles," "Best Sports News Story," "Best News Reporting," and "Promotion of Newspapers"; and

WHEREAS, *The Erwin Record* gained third place for “Make-Up and Appearance;” fourth place for “Public Service” for coverage of plans to establish a countywide animal shelter and its coverage of Erwin’s National Guard, “Best Special Section” for the newspaper’s annual Apple Festival supplement, “Best Single Advertisement,” and “Local Features;” and sixth place for “Best Education Reporting”; and

WHEREAS, nearly 1,300 entries from 83 association newspapers were received for this year’s competition, which was judged by members of the Louisiana Press Association; and

WHEREAS, this is the fourth consecutive year that *The Erwin Record*, under the astute leadership of publisher Mark A. Stephens, has won the “General Excellence Award” from the TPA, marking the continued dedication to excellence pursued by each and every one of the individuals contributing to *The Record’s* weekly coverage of all that is newsworthy; and

WHEREAS, the staff of *The Erwin Record*, including Mr. Stephens, Ms. Hughes, Ms. Sparks, Bryan Stevens and Jerry Hilliard and former staff member Ms. Harris, deserve no small amount of recognition and congratulations for their efforts in helping to make the newspaper the award-winning success that it has become; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the outstanding journalists, editors, and staff of *The Erwin Record* for their unwavering commitment to journalism of the highest degree, commend them for their public service in reporting the news, and congratulate them upon being selected the best weekly newspaper by the Tennessee Press Association.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.